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A heavy burden was imposed on the farmers of Kao-chia-chuang Ts'un when the hsien people's government aimlessly decided to select this village as the "key village for the installation of water pumps, compelling the farmer to dig a large number of wells and to buy water pumps. No benefit whatever was derived by the installation of water pumps. During June and July of 1952, water pumps were purchased one after another at the cost of 2,300,000 yuan each, despite the unwillingness of the people to buy them. Ma Lai-ch'eng, an official of the Hsien Agriculture and Forestry Department, told the people: "One water pump costs 2,300,000 yuan and is capable of watering 20 mou of land. Without the water pump you can't do the job." The people were still unwilling; they held progressive mass meetings for 3 days and 9 evenings. As a result, those who were comparatively well off were apportioned to buy one water pump each. Farmer Wu San-ma only owned 5 mou of cultivated land, but was still assigned one water pump. Under the joint method of purchasing, four of the poorer households were assigned the purchase of one water pump. Farmer Lu Wen-cheng had to sell 9 mou of land to meet his assessment. Investigation shows that the water pumps were not used extensively, that three water pumps were not used at all, and 57 water pumps used only once. The people got to dislike the pumps so much that they called them "black spiders" and "money grabbers."

The well digging conditions were also burdensome. Hsien and ch'u cadres surveyed the people's land, a total of 4,390 mou of sandy land, and decreed that for every area of 40 x 40 pu,  $\sqrt{one\ pu\ equals\ 5\ feet}$  one well hole had to be dug. In some instances as many as ten wells were dug on 15 mou. The allocation for well digging was set at 20,000 yuan for each of the 114 male members of the labor force, and 10,000 yuan each for the 47 female members of the labor force. While those who dug got paid for their work, others who did not want to do the digging themselves had to pay to get it done.

The wells were dug on the assigned spots of land, regardless of whether or not the owner of the land consented. Of the 130 wells which already existed in the village, only 89 were found to be acceptable. Well-digging got to a point where people would say that "digging a well is like digging a grave." A total of 166 wells were dug last year in this manner, and by spring of this year 156 of them were no longer of use, and had to be filled.

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